

LOSS OF RHINELAND FEARED BY GERMANY

Neutralization of Province
Suspected as Plan to Make
Region French.

TOO HIGH PRICE TO PAY

Separate Republic or Buffer
State Might Cause Ba-
varia to Secede.

COUP D'ETAT IS RUMORED

Berlin Hears Scheme Is to
Unite With Austria Under
Wittelsbachs.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD.
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The possibility of the Rhine Province being neutralized, as a part of the program under discussion by the Prime Ministers of Great Britain and France in London, is a fly in the ointment in Germany's general satisfaction over the news of Lloyd George's plans for settling the reparation problem.

Meanwhile Germany's general attitude might be called one of holding her thumbs, inasmuch as reports of Premier Briand's first meeting with the British Prime Minister outstripped German expectations and suggested better prospects from a German standpoint than were derived from any conference held hitherto. Now the Germans even go so far as to predict that the London meeting may lead to the signing of an economic peace in Europe and what to them seem radical changes in the essential economic clauses of the Treaty of Versailles.

Fear Neutralized Rhineland.

On the whole, opinion in circles close to the Government here was that first reports from London were "too good to be true." It may be that this skepticism veiled criticism of the suggested neutralization of the Rhine Province.

"If it is to be neutralized like the Saar district it is not acceptable," a prominent official here declared, "for that would be merely using the League of Nations to turn a German district into a French one."

It is feared here that the establishment of a Rhineland republic, neutral zone or buffer State with a guaranteed neutrality would excite separatist tendencies in Bavaria. This fear is especially keen here because of a report reaching Berlin that Bavarian monarchists are planning a coup d'etat before January 15 next which is to embrace Austria also and which is aimed to unite Bavaria and Austria under the Wittelsbach family. The leader of the Rhineland separatists is already on record with a prophecy that separation from Germany and the establishment of a Rhineland republic will soon be an actuality.

Ready to Cooperate.

It was stated at the German Foreign Office to-day that it was too early to make a safe conjecture regarding the outcome of the London meeting of the British and French Prime Ministers, but

American Dollar Below Par in Switzerland

GENEVA, Dec. 21 (Associated Press).—Switzerland is the only country in the world where the American dollar today was below par. The dollar was quoted at 5 francs 12 centimes on the Geneva Bourse. The normal rate before the war was 5 francs 15 centimes. The highest rate after the armistice was signed was 5 francs 99 centimes. American visitors who are losing by the exchange rate, however, are fewer this year than during any past season in twenty years.

that apparently these Entente leaders were meeting this time in a mood to deal with economic actualities. Germany, for her part, would agree to anything which made real reconstruction in Europe possible.

Before there are any closer relations between this country and Russia Germany, it was said, would have to have guarantees that the Communists will desist from instituting one at home is answered by the *Vossische Zeitung*, which says that the interest on the German funded debt is so slight that it makes no appreciable difference in Germany's ability to meet her reparation payments. The German answer to the Reparation Commission, now in preparation, is not expected to be completed soon. In answer to the question of when Germany will be able to resume payments it was stated it would be impossible to say until it was known what general readjustment of the reparation burden was made.

INTERNATIONAL ARMY GEN. SARRAIL'S PANACEA

Of 1 American, 1 Belgian, 2
British, 2 French Battalions.

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The use of the Rhineland armies as a nucleus of Powers is the latest suggestion from Gen. Sarrail in an article published by the *Ere Nouvelle*. Sarrail says that it is useless for France to increase her national burdens by new contingents as long as the United States, France, Great Britain and Belgium each have battalions along the Rhine sufficient for any emergency elsewhere.

"Such an international force," he writes, "might be comprised of one American, one Belgian, two British and two French battalions. The troops could thus be designated to continue to remain on the Rhineland, and if ordered to march on behalf of the league they could not be replaced. There would, therefore, not be any supplementary expense involved. On the contrary, there would be increased authority and the league's army would be able to intervene anywhere whenever it was considered necessary."

Although Gen. Sarrail admits that a few thousand soldiers would not be able to handle any serious uprising in a world where millions are still armed, he insists that the constitution of an international force of this sort would be sufficient until the nations get together and compel factories no longer to manufacture munitions and material.

KAPP REVOLUTIONIST SENTENCED IN BERLIN

Former Police Commissioner
Must Serve Five Years.

BERLIN, Dec. 21 (Associated Press).—Dr. Traugott von Jagow, former Berlin Police Commissioner, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment to-day by the Federal Supreme Court for his part in the Kapp revolt of March, 1920, which temporarily overthrew the Weimar Government. The sentence stipulates detention in a fortress.

Baron von Wandenheim and Dr. Schiele, co-defendants, were acquitted. Von Jagow, who was Minister of the Interior under the short-lived Kapp regime, should not be confounded with Dr. Gottlieb von Jagow, former German Foreign Minister.

FIVE POWER PARLEY PLAN FOR EUROPE

Continued from First Page.

he would leave to-morrow afternoon for Paris, the British hope that he will change his mind and remain here a few days longer, if necessary, to continue the discussions for a common basis of understanding for recommendation to the Supreme Council when it meets in Cannes, where it will discuss, among other topics, the proposed five Power economic conference.

Premier Briand is not expected to see Lloyd George before the Cannes meeting, after the two Prime Ministers met at 10 Downing street to-morrow morning.

This evening M. Briand was in one of his most amiable moods. Although it was reported in British circles that Mr. Lloyd George had canceled his Christmas holiday in Wales owing to the seriousness of the conference, M. Briand said he must leave here to-morrow for home, "however much I enjoy Mr. Lloyd George's company," he added. He said that the most cordial relations existed between them throughout the entire conversations and that, as a result of this he was returning to Paris satisfied that the difficulties would be solved.

Premier Briand made it clear that the conversations here had been of a purely informal nature and that all decisions had been deferred until the Supreme Council met in Cannes. This meeting will deal with reparations and should not be confused with a Near East conference, which will be a separate affair.

In British circles it was insisted that nothing has been accomplished regarding the methods of exacting payments from Germany. At the same time it was said in reliable Belgian circles here that reports that the British would insist that the next installment of the German reparation, due on January 15, and amounting to 500,000,000 marks gold, be paid, were premature.

LONDON, Dec. 21 (Associated Press).—Regarding the conversations between Louis P. Loucheur, the French Minister of Liberated Regions, and Dr. Walter Rathenau, the German financial expert, it is stated these did not go beyond the merest formalities. The German delegates here refuse all information on the subject.

Some reports current to-night go so far as to hint that M. Briand's hurried departure is due to these differences and the fact that the French delegates and experts have taken the firm stand that Germany will be able to pay the January and February installments, while the British experts think some latitude should be shown in view of Germany's difficult circumstances, and there was also the possibility of the fall of the Weimar Government if the payments were insisted upon.

Germany will not be officially represented at the Cannes meeting, but her experts will probably be called in, as they were at the London conference.

SINGLE EX-SOLDIER SUPPORTS WATSON

Others Summoned Fail to Ap-
pear and Hearings Go Over
to January 4.

OFFICIALS WILL TESTIFY

New York Man Telegraphs to
Committee He Declines to
Be a Witness.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Because of the absence of half a dozen witnesses summoned to appear to-day the Senate committee investigation of charges by Senator Watson (Ga.), Democrat, that American soldiers had been hanged in France without trial was forced over until after the Christmas holidays.

A new batch of witnesses—nine in all—was ordered to appear January 4 for examination in view of their statements made heretofore in letters to Senator Watson and others that they had first hand knowledge of illegal executions of the death sentence.

Except in one instance there was no explanation why to-day's witnesses failed to appear. One was ready to start, but there was some delay in delivery of his railroad ticket and he will come later. With the expectation that the missing witnesses might turn up in the afternoon a second session was held, but the roll was called and none answered. Senator Watson himself did not attend the afternoon session.

N. Y. Man Won't Testify.

Chairman Brandegee announced that in order to make the investigation as sweeping as possible War Department officials would be called to check up each alleged case of brutality or murder. It was again made clear that some of the hangings witnessed by former service men included the execution of eleven soldiers put to death after trial by court-martial.

The only former soldier appearing to-day—Marion J. Wallis of Athens, Ga.—did not serve overseas. His testimony relating entirely to the alleged killing of a private named Halley by a corporal at Camp Wheeler, Ga., in 1918. War Department records to determine whether the corporal, designated by Wallis only as "Corporal Crawford," had been tried were demanded.

There was an intimation that the committee would proceed to compel the attendance of George P. Hubbard, who recently declared in a statement here that he saw the bodies of three soldiers which had been disinterred, and that there was a rope around the neck of each, "showing the men had been hanged." Notified that he was wanted as a witness and asked to come along at once Hubbard sent a three word telegram from New York saying: "Will not accept."

"Georgia Family Row."

Wallis on examination said he did not serve overseas and had no evidence bearing on executions on foreign soil. Wallis read a letter from one of his comrades at Sandusky, Ohio, attacking officers of a Georgia regiment and indicating he would get even some day.

"Some of those Georgia officers were pretty bad from that," Wallis was asked.

"Yes, indeed," he replied.

"This seems to be a Georgia family

row," said Senator Ernst (Ky.), Republican, and Senator Watson joined in the laughter.

At this point Senator Watson offered a telegram from James R. Milton of Chattanooga saying he also had witnessed the killing of Halley by Crawford and would come to Washington to testify to that effect. Another telegram from W. F. Brock of Lindsie, Ga., said the soldier was killed because he was ill and unable to work and that Crawford was not tried by court-martial.

Wallis, however, had another version saying that Crawford was tried by court-martial, received a thirty day furlough and then made a sergeant. To the best of his recollection the killing was in May or June, 1918.

Some of the telegrams referred to Crawford as a Captain, but Wallis stuck to his story that he was a corporal at the time of the shooting.

Officers of the War Department said they would examine the records to determine if such a case as that described by Wallis was listed.

After Wallis had ended his testimony the names of the five other witnesses summoned to appear to-day were called, but none of the five responded. The hearing then went over until afternoon, with the expectation that the absent witnesses might arrive by that time.

There was no explanation as to the absence of the six witnesses whose names were called and who had been duly summoned to appear.

One of the Georgia men, one of the five, had telegraphed that he would be here, "Providence permitting."

"Providence seems to have been against him," remarked Chairman Brandegee.

HARVEY AND COLBY
EXCHANGE REPARTEE

Fence Good Humoredly at
London Dinner.

LONDON, Dec. 21 (Associated Press).—Ambassador George Harvey and Balbridge Colby, Secretary of State under President Wilson, put aside their political differences and fenced with each other good humoredly at the dinner to-night of the Knights of the Round Table Club.

With some show of feeling Mr. Colby replied to the Ambassador's Pilgrim dinner allusion to the "Too proud to fight" slogan, saying that the army sent to France constituted the best testimony of the inaccuracy of that "much played upon," distorted and misunderstood aphorism.

He said he belonged to that section of opinion in America which would have approached the problems before the Washington conference "with a little more dash and spirit and less hesitancy," and he added, "I believe that the League of Nations still lives." He endorsed, however, the Washington accomplishments as steps in the right direction.

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